

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 SSM-03

/103 W

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R 091515Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5122

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS HINTS AT GOE INITIATIVE ON LEBANON

1. AHAM JULY 9 "LEARNED" THAT GOE IS IN PROCESS OF MAKING IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONTACTS IN ARAB AND FOREIGN CAPITALS CONCERNING LEBANESE SITUATION. PAPER QUOTES PALESTINIAN SOURCES AS CLAIMING THAT BECAUSE OF THESE EGYPTIAN CONTACTS AND BECAUSE ARAB LEAGUE TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE

FAILED BRING ABOUT CEASE-FIRE, GOE INTENDS TAKE "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT MEASURES" TO PROTECT THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND ITS PRESENCE IN LEBANON.

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2. ARAFAT'S LATEST MESSAGE TO SADAT PROVIDES PRESS WITH OPPORTUNITY DESCRIBE SYRIAN NON-COOPERATION WITH AL PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, WITHOUT ACTUALLY CHARGING DAMASCUS WITH HYPOCRISY. ACCORDING TO AHRAH, ARAFAT HAS INFORMED SADAT THAT EYEWITNESSES CONFIRMED JULY 8 THAT SYRIAN TROOPS TOOK PART IN SHELLING TAL ZA'TAR AND THAT SYRIAN ARMORED UNIT NEAR CASINO HAS 30 AUTOMATIC MISSILE LAUNCHERS PROBABLY DIRECTED TOWARD NABA'. (COMMENT: NABA' IS MUSLIM SHI'I POCKET IN EAST BEIRUT.) REPORTEDLY, ARAFAT WARNED SADAT THAT MAJOR SYRIAN ATTACK AGAINST BEIRUT IS EXPECTED "AT ANY MOMENT." RADIO BAGHDAD REPORT IS ALSO USED TO CAST DOUBT ON SYRIAN INTENTIONS. BAGHDAD BROADCAST JULY 8 ALLEGEDLY CLAIMED SYRIAN FORCE OF 15 TANKS AND 10 GUNS HAS DEFECTED TO PALESTINIAN/LEBANESE NATIONALISTS SIDE AND IS NOW FIGHTING AGAINST SYRIANS AND ISOLATIONISTS IN KURA.

3. AS USUAL, REPORTING IS HEAVILY SLANTED TOWARD EMPHASIZING EGYPTIAN DETERMINATION "PROTECT" PLO. IN INTERESTING TWIST, WE READ THAT SADAT SENT CHAMBERLAIN TO PLO OFFICE TO CONVEY CONDOLENCES ON DEATH OF PALESTINIAN LEADER IN OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. THIS MAY BE PUBLIC SIGNAL TO PLO THAT GOE IS STILL INSISTING ON GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE, SINCE CHAMBERLAINS ARE SENT ON SUCH MISSIONS ONLY TO EMBASSIES. (WHEN PLO OFFICE WAS GRANTED DIPLOMATIC STATUS LAST YEAR BY GOE, MFA LET IT BE KNOWN THAT DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES WERE BEING ACCORDED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE WOULD SOON BE FORMED.)

4. IN LEBANON ITSELF, CHAMOUN REMAINS EGYPTIANS' CHOICE AS ARCH VILLAIN. HE IS QUOTED AS TELLING "RADIO BEIRUT" THAT AL SPECIAL REP AL-KHULI HAD "OFFERED" LEBANON SEAT AT MONDAY'S FONMINS MEETING (COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER CHAMOUN IMPLIED THAT AL-KHULI HAD SELECTED AN APPROPRIATE LEBANESE FONMIN FOR THIS MISSION). ACCORDING TO HUMHURIYYA, CHAMOUN ADDED: "WE ARE EXPECTING AL COMMITTEE REPORT AND IN LIGHT OF THAT (REPORT) WE WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO ATTEND FONMINS MEETING OR WHETHER WE WILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE ANY MEETING HELD OR ANY RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE AL."

5. WHILE REPORTING IS MORE AND MORE BLATANTLY ANTI-SYRIAN, IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THERE IS NOT ANTI-SYRIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND NO EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL IS QUOTED AS IN ANY WAY DENIGRATING SYRIAN EFFORTS. SO FAR, EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN LIMITING THEIR PUBLIC REMARKS TO LAMENTING CONTINUING FIGHTING AND REITERATING SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS. EILTS

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